

Minutes of the Regular and Special Meeting of December 13, 2005

CALL TO ORDER 7:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Feierbach, Mathewson, Bauer, Metropulos, Warden

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: None

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Crist, City Attorney Zafferano, Community Development Director de Melo, Public Works Director Davis, Finance Director Fil, Interim Human Resources Director Sam, Fire Chief Lowden, Police Chief Mattei, City Clerk Cook.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Belmont Police Department Honor Guard.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joan Peceimer, Friends of the Belmont Library, announced that the deadline for fundraising contributions for names on the donor wall is December 31st. She reviewed the donor categories.

Greg Nave, South County Fire, invited the public to attend the Holiday Open Houses at the various fire stations on December 15 and 16 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He noted they would also be holding a toy drive at these events.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Mayor Warden announced that Consent Item 4-E (Resolution Approving a Permanent Encroachment Agreement for Replacement of a Retaining Wall within the Public Right-of-Way at 2216 Coronet Boulevard would be removed from the agenda and continued to January 10, 2006. He requested that Item 4-H (Resolution Certifying Results of the Municipal Election held November 8, 2005 be removed for separate consideration.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2005.

Approval of Ordinance 1011 Amending Municipal Code Chapter 5 regarding the regulation, keeping, and maintenance of Pygmy Goats.

Approval of Resolution 9726 Approving the Filing of the Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Grant Application for City Contract Number 433 - U.S. Highway 101 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Project in the Amount of \$1,000,000.

Approval of Resolution 9727 Accepting Work, Approving As-built Plans, and Authorization to Issue Notice of Completion for Coronet Boulevard/Lyon Avenue Storm Drain Repair Project, City Contract Number 473.

Approval of Resolution 9728 Approving a Permanent Encroachment Agreement for Replacing an Existing Retaining Wall and Fence Within the Public Right-of-Way at 1570 Winding Way (APN 044-123-330).

Approval of Resolution 9729 Appointing Jeff Marshall to vacant seat on Planning Commission for a vacant term to expire on March 1, 2006.

Approval of Resolution 9730 in Appreciation for Outstanding Public Service of Councilmember Dave Bauer.

Approval of Resolution 9731 in Appreciation for Outstanding Public Service of Councilmember George Metropulos.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Mathewson, seconded by Councilmember Bauer, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved, as amended, by a show of hands.

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR SEPARTE CONSIDERATION

Resolution Certifying Results of the Municipal Election held November 8, 2005 (three Council Seats, Measure F).

Mayor Warden stated that many people in the community helped get this initiative passed. He would like to sign this Ordinance into law this evening.

Councilmember Feierbach stated that many months of hard work went into this campaign, and she was proud of Belmont voters for passing this Ordinance.

Councilmember Bauer stated that Belmont led the County in voter turnout.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Feierbach, seconded by Councilmember Metropulos, Resolution 9732 Certifying Results of the Municipal Election held November 8, 2005 was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

Mayor Warden signed Ordinance 1012 (Requiring that Certain Future Amendments to the Existing Hillside Residential and Open Space Districts (HRO-1, HRO-2, and HRO-3), and Certain Future Amendments to the General Plan Land Use Designation for Lands Currently Identified as Hillside Residential And Open Space (HROP), Be Approved by the Voters of the City of Belmont).

REORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL

Recognition of Outgoing Councilmember Metropulos

Mayor Warden presented Councilmember Metropulos with a framed Resolution and plaque.

Cathy Wright, Phyllis Court, expressed appreciation for Councilmember Metropulos' work as a Councilmember. She noted that he is also a phenomenal teacher and a friend.

Kayla Wright, Phyllis Court, presented Councilmember Metropulos with a book prepared by students at Central Elementary School.

Councilmember Feierbach stated that she would have preferred if Councilmember Metropulos had run for re-election, and that she would miss him on the City Council.

Councilmember Mathewson thanked Councilmember Metropulos for his years of service, and noted that he epitomized the term "Favorite Son" in Belmont.

Mayor Warden stated that Councilmember Metropulos was always sincere and commanded a deep sense of trust, which is rare in politics.

Assemblyman Gene Mullin presented joint resolutions of appreciation to Councilmember Metropulos and Councilmember Bauer from himself and State Senator Jackie Speier. He thanked both outgoing Councilmembers for their many hours of service.

Comments By Outgoing Councilmember Metropulos

Councilmember Metropulos stated that he enjoyed serving on the City Council in the community in which he was raised. He outlined a number of completed projects during his term, including the new fire station, City Hall, the nearly completed library, the lot merger, passage of Measure F, and roads. He stated that Council always kept its vision. He thanked the Councilmembers, and thanked staff and department heads for explaining issues. He thanked the firefighters, and stated he hoped for the best for South County Fire Authority. He thanked the police department for allowing him to ride along. He noted that the relationship between the City of Belmont and the schools, including private, is strong. He enjoyed serving as a member of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and was sad to attend his last meeting of that organization. He thanked the businesses, the media, and the citizens. He thanked his school staff, which was always supportive of his work as a Councilmember. He thanked his family for being a good role model. He concluded by saying goodbye, but not farewell.

Recognition of Outgoing Councilmember Bauer

Vice-Mayor Mathewson presented Councilmember Bauer with a framed Resolution and plaque. He noted that he did not always agree with Councilmember Bauer, but this was the nature of politics. He commented that Councilmember Bauer attended many meetings as a result of his various intergovernmental assignments, taking time away from his family.

Comments By Outgoing Councilmember Bauer

Councilmember Bauer stated his journey to the City Council began six years ago. He thanked his campaign manager, his campaign consultant, his family and neighbors. He presented his wife, Liz, with flowers of appreciation. He outlined the highlights of his committee work with the League of California Cities. He congratulated the newly elected City Councilmembers. He noted that economic development is an important issue in Belmont, and that traffic is often used as an excuse not to pursue development, but should be an indicator of success. He stated that downtown should be defined. He has a strong commitment to the community, and is not stepping out of local government. He expressed regret that he never served as Mayor.

Councilmembers Metropulos and Bauer stepped off the dais to take a seat in the audience.

Oath of Office and Presentation of Certificates of Election to Newly Elected/Re-Elected Councilmembers (Feierbach, Lieberman, Dickenson)

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilmembers Feierbach, Lieberman, and Dickenson, who then took their seats at the dais.

Remarks by newly elected/re-elected Councilmembers

Councilmember Feierbach thanked Mayor Warden for his foresight in getting the remodel/retrofit of the City Hall completed.

Councilmember Lieberman thanked those who encouraged him to run for City Council. He thanked Finance Commission Chair Ledoux for encouraging him to get involved in the

community ten years prior. He also thanked former and current City Treasurers Mason and Violet, Finance Commission members, and Finance Director Fil. He commented that he was humbled to have received the number of votes, considering it was an uncontested election. There are big issues to address, and he pledges to be thoughtful and useful, and hoped that his financial background and perspective will be helpful.

Councilmember Dickenson thanked his wife for her support. He noted he grew up in Belmont, and attended public school here. He commented that former Councilmember Metropulos was a role model for him. He thanked Mayor Warden for his guidance and wisdom. He also thanked Councilmember Feierbach, Gary Feierbach, and Councilmember Mathewson. He noted that Denny Lawhern nominated him for president of the Sterling Downs Neighborhood Association, which led him to become involved in the community. He thanked Planning Commissioners for their support, and stated he is proud to serve Belmont.

Recognition of Outgoing Mayor

Interim City Manager Crist stated that it had been a pleasure to work with the Mayor for the past six months. He noted that Mayor Warden challenged staff, provided great leadership, and devoted many hours of commitment. He thanked the Mayor's wife, Lisa, for enduring Mayor Warden's time away from home, and he presented her with flowers.

Remarks by Outgoing Mayor

Mayor Warden stated that it has been a hard, but good year. He commented that his second term as Mayor provided an opportunity to focus on important issues. He recapped the year, and noted that accomplishments were a team effort. He recognized the Finance Department for receiving an award for financial reporting for the 13th year. He thanked Public Works Director Davis for his perseverance regarding the in-pavement flasher project. He outlined various accomplishments throughout the year, including the Festival in the Park, Code Enforcement Citation process, prohibition of commercial vehicles on the street, the Helen Putnam Award of Excellence for the Safe Schools program, the adoption of the City Poem, Red Hat Day, permitting of pygmy goats, the new City Hall address, website and email changes, the acquisition of the new Semeria Park, and the installation of red bows for the holidays. He credited newly-elected Councilmember Dickenson for his efforts to draw attention to the proposed sale of below-market-rate apartments on Old County Road, and noted that they have now been sold at market rate. A financial plan is in place for the moving of the Emmett House, and all stakeholders were involved in this decision.

Mayor Warden noted the rejection of the proposed Ralston Village expansion because of its being too big and bulky, and that additional changes were still needed in the South Bay Waste Management Authority (SBWMA) Joint Powers Agreement to include oversight by elected officials. He commented regarding the ongoing work of the Permit Efficiency Task Force, and noted that some of the recommendations are already being implemented.

He thanked various staff members, and noted that Interim City Manager Crist is doing an outstanding job for Belmont. The City is in good financial condition; it endured painful cuts, but is adjusting. Fire service continues to be addressed, and he thanked the firefighters and Chief Lowden for their efforts on this issue.

He stated that \$3 million additional dollars in federal monies had been secured for the Pedestrian/Bike Bridge. Measure F was passed in November, and he thanked Councilmember Feierbach for her efforts on this issue. The new Library and revitalized Belameda Park is nearly complete. The new City Hall was dedicated prior to this evening's meeting.

He concluded by saying he was honored and humbled to have served as Mayor, and he thanked the community, the staff, and the City Council for a good year.

Nominations and consideration of Resolution approving Mayor for ensuing year

Mayor Warden called for nominations for Mayor.

Councilmember Dickenson nominated Councilmember Mathewson.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Lieberman, seconded by Councilmember Dickenson, the nominations for Mayor were closed.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Warden, seconded by Councilmember Dickenson, Resolution 9733 appointing Councilmember Mathewson as Mayor for 2006 was approved by a roll call vote (4-0-1, Mathewson abstain).

Mayor Mathewson stated that he abstained from voting since he was appointed rather than elected to City Council in 2003.

The Oath of Office was administered to Mayor Mathewson.

Nominations and consideration of Resolution approving Vice-Mayor for ensuing year

Mayor Mathewson called for nominations for Vice-Mayor.

Councilmember Dickenson nominated Councilmember Feierbach.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Warden, seconded by Councilmember Dickenson, Resolution 9734 appointing Councilmember Feierbach as Vice-Mayor for 2006 was unanimously approved by show of hands.

Remarks by New Mayor

Mayor Mathewson thanked his partner, Bob Griffith, for encouraging him to seek appointment to the Planning Commission, which led him to the City Council. He thanked friends and supporters, as well as current and former City Councilmembers. He hopes to live up to former Mayor Warden's leadership. He welcomed newly-elected Councilmembers Dickenson and Lieberman, and congratulated Councilmember Feierbach for the success of Measure F. He also thanked staff for its work. He would like to accomplish more of the good things that had been accomplished during the past year. One of his key priorities is fire service, and the other is a smooth transition to a new city manager. He noted that some of the recommendations of the Permit Efficiency Task Force have already been implemented.

Other goals include economic development, streets and road improvements. He would like to begin the process for a General Plan Update, and the recent visioning process could be used as a starting point. He also noted the Highway 101 pedestrian/bike bridge, traffic issues, the undergrounding of utilities project on Old County Road, the pending noise ordinance, and re-greening of Belmont with the addition of new trees.

Mayor Mathewson concluded by saying that he has lived in Belmont for half of his life, and he is dedicated to maintaining Belmont's culture, values, and small community feel. He pledges to be accessible to everyone, and encouraged people to contact him.

ADJOURNMENT to reception, at this time, being 8:50 P.M.

Terri Cook
Belmont City Clerk

Meeting Tape Recorded and Videotaped
Audio Recording 623

CONVENED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING RECEPTION, at 9:30 P.M.:
CLOSED SESSION

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation, initiation of litigation, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b) – One Case.

Attended by Councilmembers Feierbach, Warden, Dickenson, Lieberman, Mathewson, City Attorney Zafferano, Interim City Manager Jack Crist, Finance Director Fil. Community Development Director de Melo, and Public Works Director Davis. City Clerk Cook was excused from attending.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 10:20 P.M.

Terri Cook
Belmont City Clerk

Closed Session not audio recorded or videotaped.
Minutes approved 01/24/2006